

BRANDING IRON

APRIL 2020



The Official Newsletter of the Arizona Gay Rodeo Association

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



First and foremost, I sincerely hope you all are well and staying safe as all anxiously wait and hope for things to get better. I know many people are now

facing various types of hardships and struggles. As the song says "Lean on Your Brother". We are "family" and can lend support to each other – even if it is sometimes just to say "Hello and I hope you are safe and doing well. If you need anything, just call on me." As we keep hearing so often, WE WILL GET THROUGH THIS TOGETHER.

Although the Branding Iron was not published earlier this month, I want to this opportunity to send a few updates. I want to begin by sharing a couple of very sad announcements.



Kiki Andrews passed away in the morning on March 24, 2020 after a courageous battle with cancer. She was in her home town of Albuquerque with her family

at the time of her passing. Kiki was a great entertainer, energetic, outgoing, and always seemed to have a big smile.



Sharon Starks passed away sometime early morning on April 15, 2020. Sharon had been on the AGRA Board of Directors and served on various committees. She

was Ms AGRA 2008 and 2010, MsTer AGRA 2015, Ms IGRA 2009 and 2011, and MsTer IGRA 1st Runner-Up 2016. Sharon loved her rodeo family and enjoyed competing in the calf roping on foot

event when possible, and she always loved being a chute crew volunteer.

Both of these individuals were staunch supporters of AGRA and freely gave of their time and energy; they were always there to help in any way they could. Both will be greatly missed, and they will not be forgotten. Keep their families in your thoughts and prayers and send your love.

During this time when we face so many uncertainties and we are not able to be together in person, we can still send our love, thoughts and prayers by sending cards to the families. If you would like to send a card, please send them to AGRA as follows, and we will forward them to the families.

For Kiki, send to:

Linda Saunders
C/O AGRA
PO Box 40465
Phoenix AZ 85067

For Sharon, send to:

Melanie Reid-Starks
C/O AGRA
PO Box 40465
Phoenix AZ 85067

All 2019 AGRA memberships expired February 29, 2020. Many people have renewed their membership for 2020, but some may have forgotten. If you have not renewed your membership, I would love to see you renew now. You can complete the renewal application and pay on line at www.agra-phx.com, or you can print the application, complete it and mail with your check to AGRA – PO Box 40465 – Phoenix AZ 85067. If you are struggling financially at this time but would like to renew your membership, please

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2020 AGRA Board of Directors

PRESIDENT

Ron Trusley
E-Mail: rtrusley@cox.net
Phone: (602) 510-9671

VICE PRESIDENT

Kevin McSweeney AKA Pussy LeHoot
E-Mail: plehoot@yahoo.com

SECRETARY

Shannon McKenzie Perkins
E-Mail: agrasecretary2020@gmail.com

TREASURER

Walt Hutter
E-Mail: waltagra@cox.net
Phone: (602) 510-9672

TRUSTEE

Mark Christensen
E-Mail: mrogra2010@gmail.com
Phone: (405) 219-7075

PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR

Mark Alan Boyd
E-Mail: mark@markalanboyd.com
Phone: (602) 717-8685

FUNDRAISING DIRECTOR

Joshua Sipe AKA Claudia B.
E-Mail: jjcipe17@gmail.com



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Continued

contact me directly. My email and phone number are at the end of this report.

As you all know, we cannot have an in-person membership meeting on Sunday – April 19. So, in an effort to stay in touch and for everyone to continue to participate in AGRA meetings, the meeting will be done via Zoom. You will receive an email Zoom meeting invite with instructions. Instructions will also be on the AGRA website at www.agra-phx.com.

Many of the 2020 rodeos that were on the IGRA schedule have been cancelled or postponed until 2021. These include:

- A Texas Tradition Rodeo changed from April to June 26-28
- Hot Rodeo in Palm Springs - cancelled
- Great Plains Rodeo in Oklahoma City - cancelled
- Show-Me-State Rodeo in Missouri - cancelled
- Zia Regional Rodeo in Albuquerque - postponed until 2021
- Rocky Mountain Regional Rodeo in Denver - postponed until 2021
- North Star Regional Rodeo in Minneapolis - cancelled
- Canadian Rockies Rodeo North in Calgary, Alberta, Canada - postponed until 2021

Dates for Phoenix Pride were also changed to November 7 and 8.

Chili Verde Day (an AGRA fundraiser) scheduled for May 9 is postponed until further notice.

It is possible that our May Board and Membership Meetings will have to be rescheduled or cancelled. We will let you know as soon as possible.

The 2020 Meeting Schedule has been revised and included in this Branding Iron. It will also be posted on the AGRA website (www.agra-phx.com). As we move forward, dates and events (in addition to those listed above) may have to be changed. We will let you know of other changes that are made.

As always, contact me at anytime if you have questions, suggestions, or if you need information.

Ron Trusley

Ron Trusley

President

Phone: (602) 510-9671

E-Mail: rtrusley@cox.net

THIS MONTH'S MEMBERSHIP MEETING WILL BE HELD ON **zoom**

You can connect to the meeting in three easy ways, choose whichever you prefer...



Personal Computer

Using a PC or Mac you can choose to use either Video or Audio-only. Video will require your computer to have a webcam and microphone. Most newer laptops have this built-in. Simply click on the link in the email being sent out to join the meeting, or manually enter the URL below into your web browser. You can see if your PC is capable by joining a test meeting at <https://zoom.us/test>



Smartphone or Tablet

Using a smartphone or tablet will give you Video or Audio-only options. Download the Zoom app from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store. Then you will be able to access the meeting through the email link or by entering the Meeting ID below.



Call-in (Audio-Only)

Call any of the numbers to the right from any telephone and enter the Meeting ID below when prompted.

CALL-IN NUMBERS:

1-346-248-7799

1-669-900-6833

1-312-626-6799

1-929-205-6099

1-253-215-8782

1-301-715-8592

MEETING ID: 874 534 1582

URL: <https://zoom.us/j/8745341582>

More info and links can also be found at agra-phx.com

Please keep in mind that for many of us personally, and as an organization this will be our first time attempting this. Technical difficulties are bound to happen. So I thank you for your patience and understanding. -Mark Boyd

RODEO DIRECTOR'S REPORT

I am happy to report that at this time it looks like we made a substantial profit at our 2020 rodeo. I want to give a huge special thanks to Michael Weidmann for heading up the raffle ticket sales and to the bartenders at Charlie's for their tremendous support by selling the tickets. And, I owe a huge thank you to everyone who sold the party bus tickets and for the host on each of the buses.

Certainly, each of our royalty and every AGRA member who contributing in any manner by volunteering, entertaining, selling tickets, etc, is greatly appreciated and

I thank you for everything you did.

Our goal is to be able to decide in the May membership meeting how much money we can/will donate to other charitable organizations and then present checks in the June membership meeting.

As things change and when it is feasible, we will definitely update you about our 2021 rodeo.

Ron Trusley

Ron Trusley

Rodeo Director

Phone: (602) 510-9671

E-Mail: rtrusley@cox.net

MEETINGS & EVENTS SCHEDULE

AGRA BOARD MEETINGS

May 14, 2020
 June 4, 2020
 July 16, 2020
 August 6, 2020
 September 10, 2020
 October 8, 2020
 November 12, 2020
 December 17, 2020
 January 7, 2020
 February 4, 2020
 March 11, 2020

AGRA MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

April 19, 2020 **VIA ZOOM**
 May 17, 2020
 June 14, 2020
 July 19, 2020
 August 9, 2020
 September 13, 2020
 October 11, 2020
 November 15, 2020
 December 20, 2020
 January 10, 2020
 February 7, 2020
 March 14, 2020

IGRA BOARD MEETINGS

April 18, 2020
 November 19, 2020

AGRA Membership meetings are held at 3:00pm at Charlie's Phoenix on the dance floor.

AGRA Board Meetings are held at 7:00pm at Charlie's Corporate Offices.

RODEO/EVENT

DATES

| | |
|---|------------------------------|
| Hot Rodeo 2020 (Palm Springs, CA) (CANCELLED) | May 1-3, 2020 |
| Chili Verde Day-AGRA Fundraiser (POSTPONED TILL FURTHER NOTICE) | May 9, 2020 |
| Mother's Day | May 10, 2020 |
| Long Beach Pride (Long Beach, CA) | May 15-17, 2020 |
| Great Plains Rodeo (Oklahoma City, OK) (CANCELLED) | May 22-24, 2020 |
| Show-Me-State Rodeo (Kansas City, MO) (CANCELLED) | May 29-31, 2020 |
| Zia Regional Rodeo (Albuquerque, NM) (POSTPONED TILL 2021) | June 12-14, 2020 |
| Pride in the Pines (Flagstaff, AZ) (CANCELLED) | June 20, 2020 |
| Denver Pride (Denver, CO) | June 19-22, 2020 |
| Bisbee Pride (Bisbee, AZ) | June 19-22, 2020 |
| A Texas Tradition Rodeo (Denton, TX) (POSTPONED TILL 2021) | June 26-28, 2020 |
| Grand Ol' Opry @ Charlie's (AGRA Fundraiser) | June 27, 2020 |
| Rocky Mountain Regional Rodeo (Denver, CO) (POSTPONED TILL 2021) | July 10-12, 2020 |
| North Star Regional Rodeo (Minneapolis/St Paul, MN) (CANCELLED) | July 24-26, 2020 |
| Canadian Rockies Rodeo North (Calgary AB Canada) (POSTPONED TILL 2021) | August 1-2, 2020 |
| Beach Party @ Charlie's (AGRA Fundraiser) | September 5, 2020 |
| Labor Day (Monday) | September 7, 2020 |
| Best Buck in the Bay (San Francisco/Duncan Mills CA) | September 11-13, 2020 |
| BigHorn Rodeo (Las Vegas, NV) | September 18-20, 2020 |
| Pride in the Desert (Tucson) | September 25-26, 2020 |
| Las Vegas Pride (Las Vegas, NV) | October 18-20, 2020 |
| World Gay Rodeo Finals (Scottsdale AZ) | October 23-25, 2020 |
| IGRA Royalty Competition (Scottsdale, AZ) | October 22-24, 2020 |
| Palm Springs Pride (Palm Springs, CA) | November 1-3, 2020 |
| Phoenix Pride Parade & Festival | November 7 & 8, 2020 |
| AGRA Fall Bake Sale | November 15, 2020 |
| 36th Annual IGRA Convention (Sparks (Reno), NV) | November 19-22, 2020 |
| AGRA Day of Christmas at Charlie's | December 20, 2020 |
| AGRA Holiday Bake Sale | December 20, 2020 |
| AGRA 2021 Royalty Competition @ Charlie's | February 6, 2021 |
| Super Bowl LV (55) (Tampa, FL) | February 7, 2021 |
| Charlie's/AGRA Mini Rodeo | February 11, 2021 |
| 36th Anniversary Arizona Gay Rodeo | February 12-14, 2021 |
| Rodeo Volunteer Party | February 19, 2021 (Friday) |
| AGRA Annual Corporation Meeting/Banquet | February 27, 2021 (Saturday) |